

FEBRUARY 2012 diversitydialogue



A PUBLICATION OF THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY MULTICULTURAL CENTER, MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

A note from Dr. Jason Penry



In January, we were able to announce that the Campaign for Angelo State University has reached its goal of \$25 million in support of our students and faculty. The first comprehensive fundraising effort in our history, the campaign reached its goal because of the generosity and commitment of literally thousands of alumni and friends of our university.

Speaking of our donors, I am astonished at their generous spirit and the varied starting points in their lives, experiences at ASU, professional backgrounds and motivations for giving. What is most inspirational to me is that while the ASU family is diverse, its members came together and rallied around a common cause—changing lives—and did our part to advance the university. Now more than ever, I believe the ASU family has done an outstanding job of collaborating to accomplish its mission to “prepare students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.” I have seen hundreds of examples first hand.

Martin Luther King Jr.

The spring 2012 semester began with a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration on Jan. 17. Attendants had the opportunity to learn about the Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968.

King's leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African-Americans in the South and other parts of the U.S. King rose to national prominence as head



of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington in 1963, to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

During the ASU celebration, oversized posters were provided for students to write their personal thoughts. Many students publicly acknowledged their appreciation for King, and candidly expressed dreams of hope and peace for their future and for America.

Continuing the Legacy

ASU Recognizes African-American Faculty and Staff

"Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others."

"You is kind. You is smart. You is important."

Will YOU be the next one?

"Black history is American history."

"Differences can be a strength."



Rosa Parks



Kathryn Stockett
Author of "The Help"



Morgan Freeman



Condoleezza Rice

Black History Month
Wednesday, February 15th, 2012
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
UC Lobby

FMI: Multicultural Center - Room 114 - (325) 942-2729



2/15
Black History Month Celebration
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. @ UC Lobby

2/29
Back to My Roots
7 p.m. @ CJ Davison Center

TUES/THURS

Zumba, 8-9 p.m. @ UC Lobby
Latin Dance, 9-10 p.m. @ UC Lobby

El Cafecito, 9 a.m.-Noon
@ Multicultural Center Lobby

Student highlight: Vivek Bhakta

CLASS: SENIOR | MAJOR: MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS
HOMETOWN: ROTAN, TEXAS

A full-time student with a 3.5 GPA, Vivek Bhakta hopes to start the M.B.A. program this fall after he graduates with his bachelor's degree in May. He credits ASU's First Generation RAMS program for providing him with a student mentor who gave him advice and kept him on the right path during his first semester.

Also a student worker on the ASU Information Technology staff, Bhakta is the only student IT worker who has a CompTIA Security Certified: Security Plus certification (a higher-level IT certification). He is also one of four students doing a technology refresh project for IT.



A native of India, Bhakta came to the United States when he was 13 years old. When asked about what he likes about ASU, he said, "It's a great campus, it's reasonably priced for tuition and the people are friendly."

DID YOU KNOW...

The first interracial kiss to be seen on network television was in an episode of the sci-fi drama "Star Trek" in 1968? The episode was "Plato's Children" and the scene was a romantic moment between African-American actress Nichelle Nichols and white Canadian actor William Shatner.



Lending Library Highlight

Prejudice: More than Black and White

Muslims, blacks, gays, people with disabilities, and immigrants of every ethnicity and color: they and many other groups have stood in the spotlight glare of intolerance as easy targets for every sort of discrimination and violence. What makes people prone to irrational hate, and what steps can individuals and society take to



eradicate it? In this program, psychology professors Susan Fiske of Princeton University and Mahzarin Banaji of Harvard University, representatives of the Council on American-Islamic Relations and other pro-tolerance groups, and victims of prejudice share their insights and experiences. Also offering their views are a pro-gay Baptist minister who formerly took a biblical stance against homosexuality and an ex-Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan who now speaks out for tolerance. The program is 35 minutes in length.

Black History Month Celebration

Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month, has been observed in the United States since 1976. The national theme is announced annually by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) in Washington, D.C., and this year's theme is "Black Women in America: Culture and History."

On campus, the Angelo State theme for this year will be "Continuing the Legacy," with the goal of recognizing and learning from our African-American faculty and staff. We hope you will join us.